

A new medusa (Coelenterata: Hydrozoa) the genus *Aglauropsis* from Bombay Seas¹

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(With two plates)

The genus *Aglauropsis* of F. Müller (1865), was based on a medusa found off the coast of Brazil. But the description of the type-species, *A. agassizii*, is so vague and imperfect that it just defines the generic characters. Browne (1902) described *Aglauropsis conanti* from the Falkland Islands. Kramp (1955) described a new species, *Aglauropsis jarli*, for a medusa from the west coast of Africa.

While collecting plankton from Bombay harbour, we came across nine specimens of an *Aglauropsis*, which, on closer examination, turned out to belong to a new species.

***Aglauropsis vannuccii* sp. nov.**

Umbrella bowl shaped, with an inverted margin; a little wider than high. Diameter of umbrella, in the holotype, 8 mm; height 6 mm. Margin of the umbrella, although thick, looks quite thin when compared to the moderately thick jelly. Apical projection absent. Stomach small and hangs within the umbrella and has small, marginally thickened, folded lips; the hanging part measures 1.7 mm. Velum broad. Peduncle absent. Four radial canals united around the margin by a narrow ring canal. Radial canals simple, unbranched, and of intermediate width. In some specimens one quadrant (*i.e.*, the distance between one radial canal and the next) is wider than the adjacent quadrant, but two opposite quadrants are always of the same width.

Gonads four in number and are borne on the radial canals. Gonads commence a little away from the stomach, and run along three-quarters the length of the radial canals. Gonads smooth, sac-like, with the distal

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end thick and pendant. Each gonad is of the same thickness as the width of the radial canals, and measures about 3.5 mm. About 0.8 mm of the gonad is completely free at its lower end, this lower part being broader than the upper part. At the middle of the lower part a diffuse black patch is present. There are, in the holotype and in the other adult specimens, 28 hollow marginal tentacles. Tentacles similar and with several rings of nematocyst clusters. They are very long with globular bulbs devoid of ocelli. Bulbs occur inside the margin, and the tentacles commence above these bulbs, so that the tentacles appear to protrude a little above the margin of the umbrella. Tentacles devoid of adhesive pads and are not arranged in groups. No rudimentary tentacles at the margin. Statocysts numerous and vary from 24 to 28, there being almost always one statocyst between each pair of tentacles. Statocysts internal and are provided with an endodermal axis. Marginal as well as lateral cirri are absent.

The medusa is colourless but the gonads and the marginal bulbs are yellow in colour. However, the vividness of the coloration differs in the various specimens depending on the maturity of the animal. The number of the tentacles also increases with the size of the medusa.

Main measurements of nine specimens of the new species are given in the accompanying Table.

TABLE 1

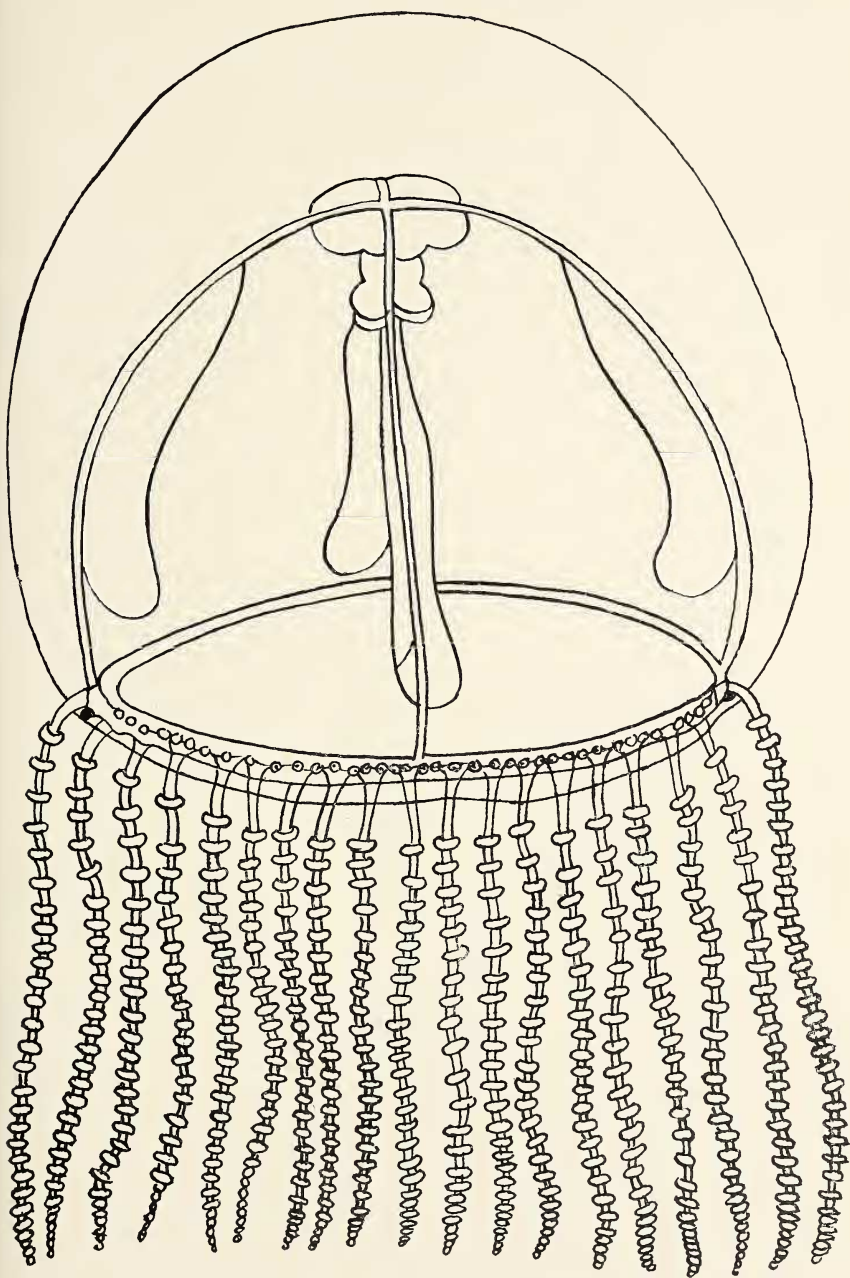
Bell diameter	Umbrella height	Stomach length	Gonad length	Length of Gonad free of umbrella	Tentacle & statocyst number
8.0*	6.0	1.7	3.5	0.8	28
5.7	4.0	1.0	2.0	0.4	28
5.5	4.0	1.0	2.0	0.4	28
5.0	3.6	0.8	1.9	0.3	28
4.0	3.5	1.0	1.5	0.3	28
3.0	2.6	0.8	1.7	0.3	24
3.0	2.6	0.8	1.7	0.3	24
3.0	2.9	0.8	1.6	0.3	24
2.9	2.3	0.6	1.2	0.2	24

Dimensions of various body parts in five adult and four immature specimens of *Aglauroopsis vannuccii*. All measurements are in millimetres.

* Holotype.

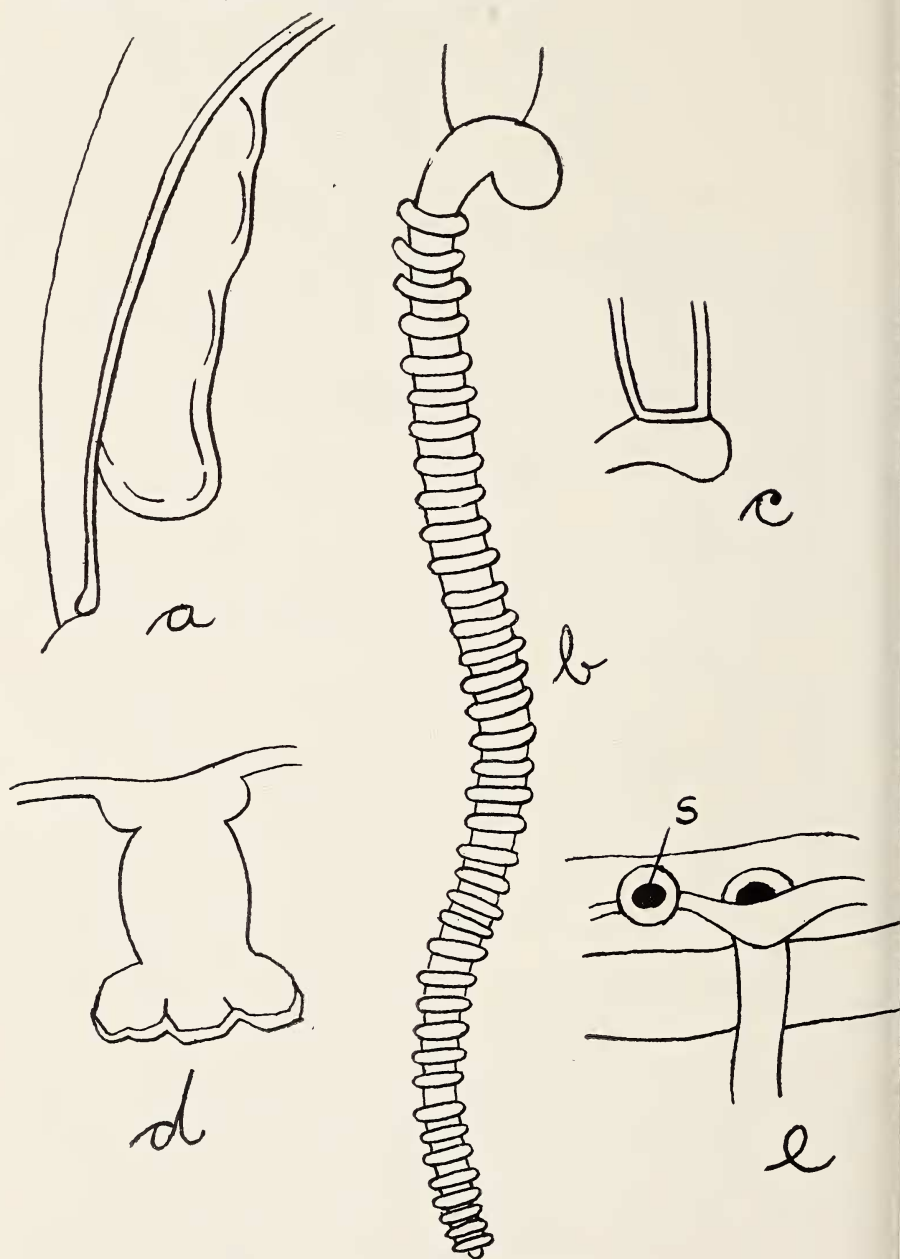
Discussion:

The genus *Aglauroopsis* now includes four species, but one of these, *A. agassizii* Müller, has been very vaguely and imperfectly described. The present species has all the characters of the genus, but does not agree fully with any of the earlier described species.



Aglauroopsis vannuccii, medusa.

All the tentacles are not figured.



Aglauropsis vannucci sp. nov.

a—gonad; b—tentacle with nematocyst rings; c—margin of umbrella; d—mouth with lips; e—margin of umbrella showing statocyst(s).